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5 March 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Cuba: Che Guevara told the Swedish ambassador in Havana that while 1962 was bad economically, 1963 will be far worse.

Swedish Ambassador Dryselius, who is accredited to several Middle American countries in addition to Cuba, has just completed his first visit to Cuba since last October.

Dryselius told US Ambassador Martin in the Dominican Republic on 3 March that he had noted a marked change in Cuba since his previous trip. While there is more food available now, "everything else is worse," particularly the availability and price of clothing and other consumer goods.

He noted more grumbling among Cubans this visit than last, but said the regime's all-pervasive security network made resistance extremely difficult.

Dryselius, noting that the prospects for this year's sugar crop are poor, stated that the Soviet Union is still paying for Cuban sugar at the price of four cents a pound, despite the fact that world prices now are near six cents. There is no confirmation of this from any other source.

When the USSR agreed in 1961 to pay four cents a pound, it was a premium price well above the world market, but still below that being paid by the US. Adjustment of the price to reflect rising world prices was undoubtedly a subject of negotiation prior to the signing on 7 February of the 1963 protocol to the Cuban-Soviet trade agreement.

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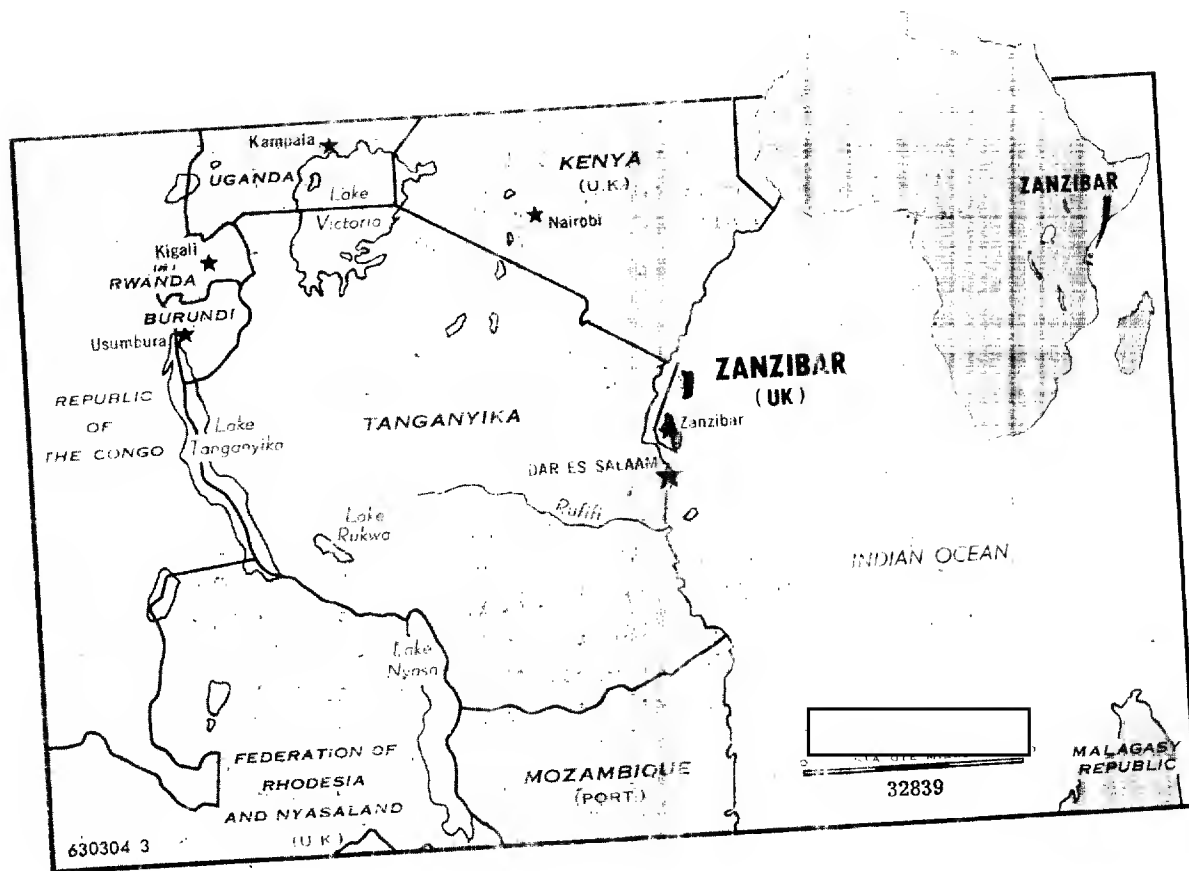
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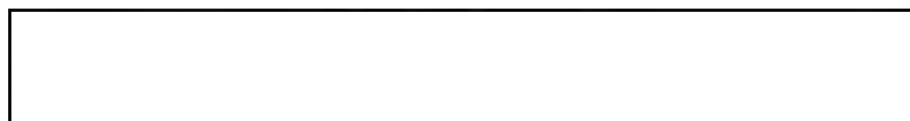
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Uruguay: Communist-dominated labor unions reportedly plan a 24-hour general strike on 5 March in support of the 12-day-old strike of electrical and telephone workers. The latter have defied a back-to-work order imposed under the limited state of siege proclaimed on 27 February, and the government has refused to negotiate until they return to their jobs. Although the armed forces have succeeded in restoring electric and telephone service to near-normal levels, they probably will not be able to guarantee other essential services that will be cut off by the general strike.

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Zanzibar: The British protectorate of Zanzibar may receive its independence by the end of this year as a consequence of Colonial Secretary Sandys' visit there last week. Sandys reportedly persuaded the mutually distrustful Arab and African groups to agree to procedures that could lead to elections in July or August. Disorders may nevertheless occur if the government now dominated by the Arab minority abuses its powers to influence the election outcome.

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